

Support Education Tag – *FRESH NEW LOOK!*



For the first time in 25 years, the tag has undergone a total makeover. Since its introduction in 1994, more than \$13 million has been raised through the collaborative efforts of the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF) and local education foundation members across the state. While the look has changed, one thing remains the same – when Florida residents purchase or renew their Support Education specialty tag, \$20 goes directly back to support education programs in the county where the tag was purchased or renewed. Funds support programs like classroom innovation, education enrichment programs, supporting and recognizing teachers, extra help and mentoring for at-risk students, school supplies and school

scholarships. Here at CLEF, we use the funds to help students succeed in their academic and personal achievements. These needs are met through student scholarships, mentoring and dropout prevention strategies, free school supplies for low-income students, teacher quality and recognition programs, classroom grants, literacy improvement strategies, technical/career education initiatives, and targeted support for low-performing students and schools.

DID YOU KNOW?...When the iconic “apple tag” was replaced with a new Support Education tag that promotes the importance of education in the Sunshine State in December 2018, members of the international Automobile License Plate Collectors Association (ALPCA) took notice. Long time Florida member Joe Hurd nominated the tag for the group’s international “Best Plate of the Year” competition and for the first time ever a Florida tag was a top contender – taking second place among 14 nominated designs from other U.S. states, Japan and two Canadian provinces.

Visit LicenseToLearnFL.com to learn more, purchase, or trade in your current Support Education tag today!

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We Welcome New CLEF Staff Member:



Dorothy Van Fleet joins us with a communications, marketing, graphic design, and an administrative background. Her creativity, organization, strong work ethic, positive attitude, and willingness to overcome any challenge makes her a great addition to the CLEF Team. Dorothy is originally from New Jersey and now lives in North Port with her husband Ray. Dorothy and her husband Ray enjoy going to the beach, going to Disney World, swimming in their pool with their dog Charlie, and socializing with friends and neighbors.

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A Message from the Director

In just a few weeks the students will be back and a new school year will begin. What are some of your favorite childhood memories of summer? Visiting my grandparents in the small town of Ozark, Missouri there were many special times but making home-made ice cream is one of my favorite memories. My grandfather's old fashioned hand-crank ice cream maker would be center stage. Grandpa, Dad, and uncles would take turns manually spinning the crank and paddle, until their arms grew tired and they'd turn it over to the next person. It was definitely a team effort!

Like that homemade ice-cream, here at CLEF it takes an entire team to achieve our goals and along the way we make very special memories. We are so grateful to the

volunteers, donors, mentors, and Board members who help us meet our mission of Connecting Children, Classrooms, and Community. In this issue you'll learn about current projects and meet some of the people that make up our team. You'll find notice of our Back to School Supply Drive and our annual Golden Apple Teacher and Support Employee of the Year Awards Gala.

There are many ways to serve our students and we'd love for you to be part of our team. To learn more about our organization or volunteer opportunities please contact me at (941) 255-7500 or email sara.wierhake@yourcharlotteschools.net.

To student success,
Sara Wierhake
Executive Director

ASK US ABOUT PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES...

contact Sara Wierhake at Sara.Wierhake@yourcharlotteschools.net or call 941-255-7500, ext. 294

CLEF Board President's Message

The Charlotte Local Education Foundation has just completed a banner twelve months and is looking forward to making even greater strides during the 2019-20 school year. During 2018-19 the Foundation began the year with a most successful student school supply drive. In conjunction with the school system, we secured several grants to foster instructional programs in the schools and the Golden Apple Gala was the most exciting and moving event yet. We formed relationships with several new donors and all of our Take Stock seniors graduated and will be starting their post graduate studies this fall. As exciting as the past year was for the Foundation, the Board of Trustees is looking to make an even greater impact on the students of Charlotte County during the 2019-20

school year. Committees are already being formed to identify an entirely new group of 8th graders for our scholarship program and additional mentors for those students are being recruited. The Foundation is also poised to seek additional grants this coming year as a result of efforts made by the Board during the past twelve months. In addition, the Board will be implementing an exciting project that will allow the Foundation to take a great leap forward in its mission of Connecting Children, Classrooms, and the Community. During the coming months watch this space, or your local newspaper, for more information on this tremendous new project

Bob Pietrasanta
Board President

If you would prefer to receive our newsletter via email in pdf version, please send your email address and request to: dorothy.vanfleet@yourcharlotteschools.net

Volunteers Matter

For the past five years, Tom Segur has been managing the Teacher Supply Depot for the benefit of all Charlotte County teachers to acquire free supplies for the students and their classrooms. The depot is open on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 until 5:00 pm. This past school year, about 120 guests visited the depot. This is only a small portion of teachers in the school district. Be sure to make an effort for the next school year to pay us a visit and see what is available to fulfill some of your needs.

Tom has also been very active in Astronomy for

most of his life. He is the co-founder of the Astronomy club that is still active in Westchester County, NY. He is currently the director of the FSW State College Observatory in Punta Gorda, which will be open to the public on the fourth Friday of each month starting in September 2019 thru May 2020. In addition, he coordinates the monthly Solar Observing sessions on Saturday mornings, which are held at various parks around the county. If you are interested in any special observing sessions for your students, you can contact Tom at 941-249-8726.

Super STAR Student



Kaitlin Kirkpatrick attended Florida Southwestern Collegiate High School. She earned her High School Diploma as well as her Associates of Arts Degree. Katie will attend the University of South Florida and will start her college career this summer. During high school, Katie was a member of the National Honor Society. Katie was on the Principal's Honor Roll and the A Honor Roll. She has spent many hours volunteering in the community at Hospice, Bay-

front Medical Center in Port Charlotte, and the Charlotte County Library. Her interests include painting and spending time helping out in the community. Katie is working while she attends school. Her employer has stated that she has the following qualities: helpful, kind, is great at customer service, and is an employee who always has a smile on her face. Katie will be pursuing a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and plans on a career in Speech Pathology and perhaps Audiology. She will achieve her Bachelor's Degree and then earn an Advanced Degree.



Take Stock in Children STAR Celebration

Charlotte Local Education Foundation is the lead agency in Take Stock in Children in Charlotte County. Take Stock in Children, a statewide non-profit organization with a solid history of breaking the cycle of poverty by providing scholarships, mentors and hope, celebrated the graduation of our high school seniors from the local program in Charlotte County on May 7th at Charlotte Technical College. Each of these students received tuition scholarships to attend any state college or university of their choice in Florida upon graduation.

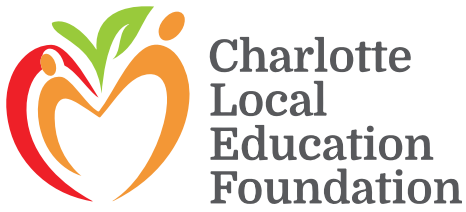


Our graduating seniors include: Brisilda Betje, Marissa Cavaliere, Steven Cloyd, Michael Fischetti, Patricia Fuller, Brandon Garcia, Anthony Genik, Lea Hendrickson, Kaitlin Kirkpatrick, Omehvy Rivera-Martinez, and Alex Roberson.



This graduation signifies that these students have met with their Take Stock in Children mentor once per week, are graduating with a minimum grade point average of 2.5, and have remained drug and crime free. This is the commitment that each Take Stock in Children scholar makes upon joining the program in order to receive a college scholarship.

"This is a milestone achievement for Take Stock in Children as we celebrate breaking the cycle of poverty through education," says Sara Wierhake, Executive Director of Take Stock in Children of Charlotte County. "We are extremely proud of our students who will now take the next steps and make their college dreams a reality."



18150 Murdock Circle, Room 79
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

941-255-7500, ext. 297
charlotteschoolfoundation.org

Connecting Children, Classrooms & Community



Upcoming Events



**Drive Thru
Back to School
Supply Drive**

While Supplies last!

Friday, July 26th 4:00-6:00 PM

Free school supplies for **ALL grade levels**
 One bag for each child present in vehicle
Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County
21450 Gibraltar Dr Port Charlotte






*Teacher & Support Employee
of the Year Celebration*

Golden Apple Awards Gala

SAVE the DATE

Saturday, January 11, 2020 • 6:00 pm

Holy Trinity Event Center
24411 Rampart Blvd
Port Charlotte, FL

More Information to come...
 CharlotteSchoolFoundation.org
 or call 941-255-7500, ext. 297

Presented by: